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Giesecke, Albert A. *American Commercial Legislation Before 1789.* Pp. 167.

Price, \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1910.

This is a highly convenient and well-nigh exhaustive summary of the laws enacted (1) by the British Parliament for the regulation of American trade and manufactures, (2) by the several colonial legislatures for the raising of revenues and the discouragement of certain imports, (3) by the Continental and Confederate congresses in the endeavor to bring Great Britain to terms by systematic boycott and, when separation had become inevitable, to provide new markets for American produce. The discussion of the economic effects of this restrictive legislation could hardly be undertaken in so brief a monograph, yet one cannot but regret that the author fails to present the *raison d'être* of the imperial policy and the actual operation of the measures approved by a parliament that considered only English interests. Latterday historians are making quite evident the fact that the British colonial system was by no means so oppressive as it appeared to the resourceful and ambitious colonials, but a just estimate of its comparative liberality can only be reached by a study of the Spanish colonial policy as exemplified in New Spain. The English colonists knew no such handicap as the "closed port," and the mother country that monopolized their trade was their most convenient market, whereas the exclusive privileges granted to Cadiz by the Council of the Indies accomplished the ruin of industry and commerce both in Spain and in her luckless colonies. Even the "free trade edict" promulgated by Charles III merely enlarged the number of open ports and lowered some duties, while the admission of foreign vessels to trade with Mexico and California was not contemplated. The results in the way of stifling economic initiative were such as no British dependency was made to suffer.

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Hazen, C. D. *Europe Since 1815.* Pp. xxv, 830. Price, \$3.00. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1910.

A book should be judged by the purpose of the author. Professor Hazen has set himself to the task of writing a general history of Europe since 1815, and the canons by which his achievements are to be measured are simple. Is the volume well balanced in the proportions assigned to the several countries and historical problems? Is the method of treatment in keeping with the pretensions of the title? Are the statements accurate? Is the style, if not distinctly engaging, at least clear and direct? Is the arrangement of materials such as to attract and fix the mind of the reader?

In the matter of the distribution of emphasis, Professor Hazen has done fair justice to the stress of interest in the average American mind. If any objection could be urged against his balance or proportions, it is that he has given too much space to France and England, for out of 736 pages of text about three hundred are devoted to the internal developments of the two countries. The present reviewer is in no mood to quarrel, but he has a faint